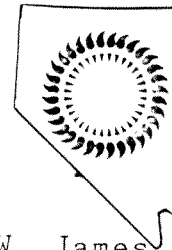


NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

Office of the State Climatologist

FOR APRIL 1989
VOLUME 7, NUMBER 4



Offices:
226 and 322 Mackay Science
(702) 784-6995
(702) 784-1723

Nevada State Library

JUN 2 1989

John W. James
State Climatologist
Mackay Science Hall
University of Nevada-Reno
Reno, NV 89557

Documents Section

SYNOPSIS

Mild conditions that began in the latter portion of February continued through April, culminating in the warmest 4th month on record at many locations in the southern half of the Silver State. Several areas also experienced the warmest April day of record, with Laughlin and Cottonwood Cove reaching 106° on the 7th for a new state April maximum, edging out the 105° measured at Logandale in 1987.

April was also a drier than normal month; the exception being very small areas in northern Humboldt County and western Esmeralda County where a little more precipitation than normal fell.

Water year precipitation (October 1, 1988-May 1, 1989) percentages suffered some due to the dry conditions, with 65-95% of normal in the eastern slope Sierra Nevada watersheds, 90-130% in the Humboldt River area and only 20-35% of normal in southern Nevada.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures averaged well above normal statewide, with departures ranging from 4° in the northeast to 9° in southern Nevada. This was the warmest April of record at many locations from Gt. Basin National Park (+7), Ruby Lake (+7) and Ely (+8) in the northeast to Boulder City (+9), Las Vegas (+9) and Searchlight (+8 1/2) in the south and Tonopah (+8), Hawthorne (+7) and Pioche (+8 1/2) in the south central portion of the State.

Las Vegas temperatures averaged 9.2° above normal, for the warmest April since Airport records began in 1936, and in fact warmer than any April measured at the old downtown location where records go back to 1907 and before that 1895-1900! Only the extreme maximum record was not broken as 98° this April missed the Airport record of 99 in 1981 and downtown's 102 in 1914. It was even warm atop 5500 foot Mtn. Springs Summit near Las Vegas where new weather observer Fred Hamilton recorded 89°. Record highs were reached at Searchlight (92) where records began in 1913, Boulder City (97), records began 1931, Great Basin National Park (79), records began 1937, Ruby Lake (79), records began 1940, Ely (81), records began 1938, and Minden (87), records began 1906. It was also the second warmest April at Minden, as 1939 was just a bit warmer overall.

On the cool side (where you could find it), temperatures dropped to near 10 degrees at a few sites at month's end. Reese River O'Toole had 9°, Pine Valley Bailey and Ruth 11°, and Manhattan and Tonkin Springs (Eureka County) 12°. The State record low for the month was -12° at Ruth in 1963.

Heating degree days were well below normal, with unusual cooling requirements in vogue this month.

Water temperatures at Lake Mead's shore ranged from 60° at the beginning of the month to 67° at month's end.

PRECIPITATION

Except for small areas in northern Humboldt County and in western Esmeralda County, precipitation was well below normal Statewide. In fact, most locations in the southeastern 1/3 of the State had none.

The only areas of above normal precipitation were the Paradise Valley/Orovada area north of Winnemucca and in Fish Lake Valley west of Goldfield, where from 110-150% of normal was measured. Wettest rain gages were near the Lake Tahoe Basin where Little Valley had 1.74" and Tahoe Meadows 1.59", both well below normal.

Snowfall was also much less than usual for April as the heaviest recorded snow was only 9" at Daggett Pass. On May 1st there was 63" of snow left on the ground at 8500' Tahoe Meadows. This is about 3/4 of normal.

SUNSHINE, WIND AND EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were well above normal Statewide, with near record setting amounts of sunshine for April in the north and east where Winnemucca and Ely had 90% and 82% of the possible hours, and normals of only 63% and 68% respectively. Reno recorded 92% (normal = 81%) and Las Vegas 94% (normal = 87%).

Wind was more of a mixed bag, with below normal wind speeds in the north, near normal in the west, and above normal in the south. Maximum gusts reached 82 mph atop 9700 foot Slide Mtn. on the 2nd and 77 mph on the 21st on Peavine Mtn. (8300'), both near Reno.

Evaporation was unusually high, in fact record setting for April at some locations. Reno had a record 7.45" of pan evaporation, while Flemming F & G at Honey Lake had 6.01". In the northeast, Ruby Lake also had a record of 6.50" (normal is 5"). In south central Nevada, Silverpeak had a near normal 10.57". In the south, Boulder City had a record 13.62" (normal is 9.40"), with 10.65" at Logandale and 8.46" at Pahrump.

NOTE: What are Nevada's extreme temperatures for June and July?

June High	122° (also yearly high)	Overton 1954 Echo Bay 1981
June Low	8° (June 1st)	Belmont 1891
July High	122°	Laughlin 1985 Echo Bay 1981
July Low	18°	Ruth 1968

John W. James
State Climatologist

NEVADA PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION

APRIL 1989

STATUTE MILES
10 0 10 20 30 40

